

## Claim Amendments

1-14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) [A] An ion pair surfactant in which an N-C<sub>8-24</sub> acylamino acid and an alkali salt of an amino acid are blended and neutralized to form an ion pair having [have] a pH of 5 to 9.

16. (currently amended) A surfactant according to claim [1] 15, wherein an amino acid in the alkali salt of an amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of acidic amino acids and neutral amino acids.

17. (currently amended) A surfactant according to claim [1] 15, wherein an amino acid in the alkali salt of an amino acid is at least one member selected from  $\alpha$ -amino acids.

18. (currently amended) A surfactant according to claim [1] 15, wherein an amino acid in the alkali salt of an amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, proline, hydroxyproline, glutamine, glutamic acid, asparagine, aspartic acid, and glycyglycine.

19. (currently amended) A surfactant according to claim [1] 15, wherein an amino acid in the alkali salt of an amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, glutamic acid, and glycyglycine.

20. (new) An ion pair surfactant salt of an N-C<sub>8-24</sub> acylamino acid cation and an amino acid anion that are blended and neutralized to a pH of 5 to 9.

21. (new) A surfactant salt according to claim 20, wherein the amino acid anion is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, proline, hydroxyproline, glutamine, glutamic acid, asparagine, aspartic acid, and glycyglycine.

22. (new) A surfactant salt according to claim 20, wherein the amino acid anion is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, glutamic acid, and glycyglycine.

23. (new) An emulsion comprising a surfactant salt according to claim 15, wherein the surfactant salt is 0.1% to 5% by weight of the emulsion.